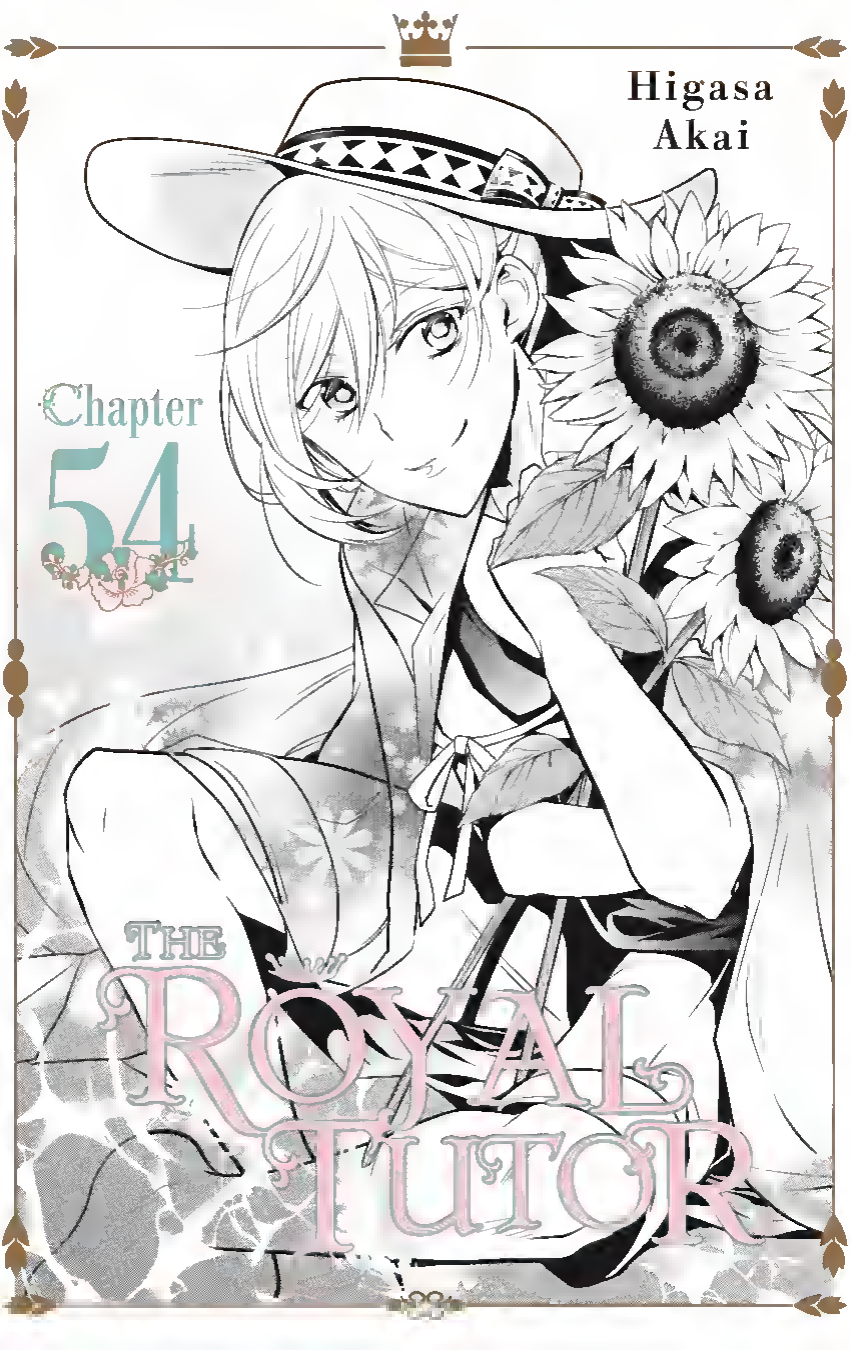

Higasa
Akai
Chapter
54
THE
ROYAL
TUTOR

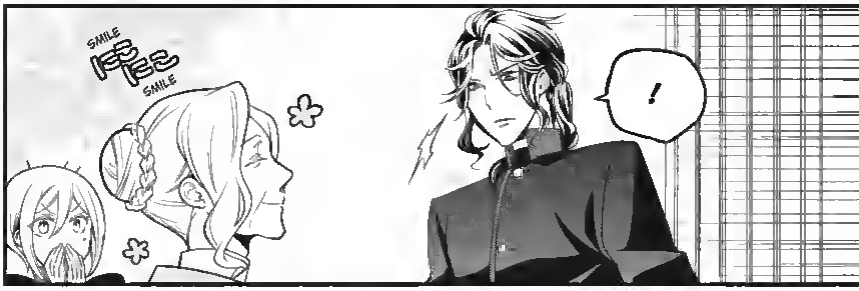
Chapter 54

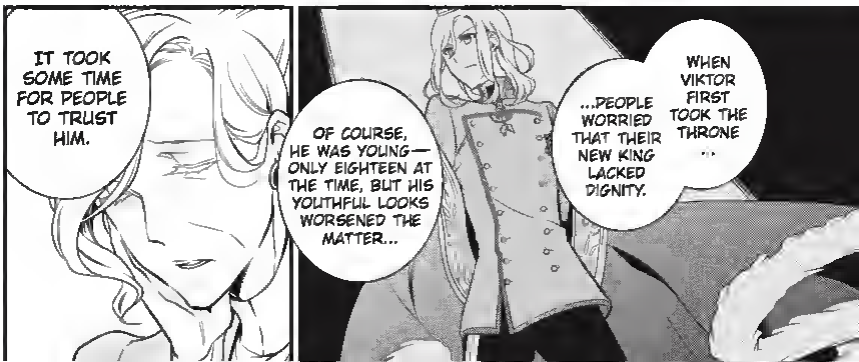
Potential of the White Lily

LOOM
...LEON-
HARD.

HEH HEH...!
FU-FU-FU!
OH DEAR... THE FRIENDLY TEA PARTY MAY BE OVER...
HUH?
THAT WAS A RATHER UNCOUTH THING TO SAY, PRINCE LEONHARD.
...THAT'S WHY YOUR FACE LOOKS EVEN OLDER THAN FATHER'S!
ERR...!
UH...!

OH MY!
BEAM
ISN'T THIS WONDERFUL?


SMILE
にこにこ
SMILE
!


WHEN VIKTOR FIRST TOOK THE THRONE...
...PEOPLE WORRIED THAT THEIR NEW KING LACKED DIGNITY.
OF COURSE, HE WAS YOUNG—ONLY EIGHTEEN AT THE TIME, BUT HIS YOUTHFUL LOOKS WORSENED THE MATTER...
IT TOOK SOME TIME FOR PEOPLE TO TRUST HIM.

OH? SUCH AN AMUSING THING HAPPENED?
THAT'S THE PROFESSOR FOR YOU
INDEED...I MYSELF WAS MISTAKEN FOR A CHILD AND STOPPED AT THE GATES OF THE ROYAL PALACE.
ON MY FIRST DAY
SO YOU SEE, A YOUNG FACE...
...ISN'T ALL GOOD. QUITE THE CONTRARY.
OHH!
A NICE SAVE FROM HER HIGHNESS THE QUEEN MOTHER.
ONE'S OUTWARD APPEARANCE IS IMPORTANT IN ANY OCCUPATION...
IT IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT FROM STUDYING ...
...SO I HAD NOT GIVEN THIS ANGLE MUCH THOUGHT.
...MY APPEARANCE DOESN'T BOTHER ME.
SHF
...I SEE... THEN IN THAT CASE...
.....

...YOU ALL PROCLAIMED YOUR INTENTIONS TO BECOME KING.
HUH!?
LEONHARD. ARE YOU IN ANY POSITION TO CRITICIZE ANYONE ELSE'S APPEARANCE?
...IN ORDER TO FURTHER THEIR STUDIES IN THEIR AREAS OF SPECIALTY.
I HEAR THAT KAI AND BRUNO HAVE BOTH LEFT THE ROYAL PALACE FOR A SHORT WHILE...
WELL, EITHER WAY, IT'S BETTER THAN NOT THINKING AT ALL.
MOREOVER, HE MAY COME TO ASPIRE TO THE THRONE AGAIN.
...HE REACHED HIS DECISION AFTER MUCH CAREFUL THOUGHT ON THE MATTER.
LICHT ALSO LEFT... ALTHOUGH FOR A DIFFERENT GOAL, I UNDERSTAND.

NEXT TO THEM...
...WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO, LEONHARD?
.....
IF YOUR ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE IS SHAKY TOO...
...THEN YOU HAVE A BIGGER PROBLEM THAN HONING THE ABILITIES IN YOUR OWN NICHE, YOU KNOW.
IN WHAT AREA DO YOU INTEND TO BEST ME, AND HOW?
.....

DO YOU THINK THAT ALONE MAKES YOU FIT FOR THE THRONE?
FENCING!
I'VE GOT IT!
MY SPECIALTY IS...
WELL... ERM ..
...
...BUT IT MAY INDEED BE LOW ON THE LIST OF DESIRABLE QUALITIES BEFITTING A KING...
IT IS NOT A WASTE...
IS MY SPECIALTY A WASTE!?
HEINE! I-IS FENCING A WASTE?
HEY...
NOW, NOW. DON'T LOSE YOUR TEMPER JUST BECAUSE HE POINTED OUT SOMETHING THAT BOTHERS YOU.
...I'M NOT TRYING TO PICK ON HIM...
DON'T PICK ON YOUR LITTLE BROTHER.
UUUHN!
I KNOW. BRING THAT, PLEASE!
OH, LEON-HARD. CHEER UP...

OH!
T-TORTE!?
POP
RATTLE RATTLE
?
WAAH!!
M-MAY I HAVE SOME!?
GO RIGHT AHEAD, DEAR.
I ORDERED THESE FROM LEITNER, A KONDITOREI IN WIENNER, JUST FOR TODAY.
THAT'S GREAT, BROTHER!
HMPH.
H-HUSH, YOU.
AS LONG AS THERE IS TORTE, YOU BOUNCE BACK INSTANTLY... EASILY MOTIVATED, AREN'T YOU?
AS ALWAYS.

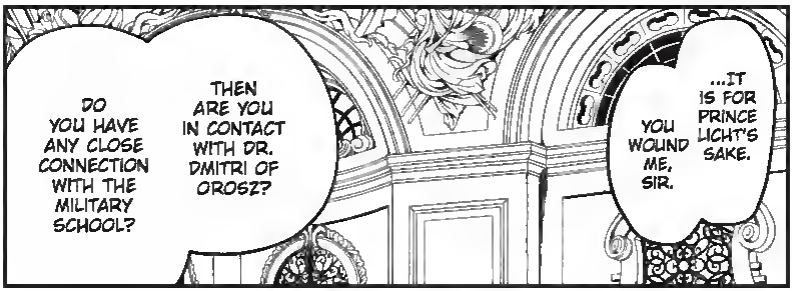
HIS MAJESTY THE KING...
...IS CALLING FOR PRINCE EINS, PRINCE LEONHARD, AND PRINCESS ADELE.
PLEASE EXCUSE THE INTERRUPTION.
AND THEN VIKTOR, HE...
AH HA HA HA!
PLEASE COME TO HIS OFFICE.
FATHER!
BEAM
WASN'T FATHER TOO BUSY WITH WORK TODAY...?
HUH!?
I CAN PICTURE IT ALL TOO EASILY.
I WANTED TO GO...! I WANTED TO SEE HIIIM...
EINS IS HERE...
HE WAS SHEDDING TEARS OF BLOOD OVER BEING UNABLE TO JOIN YOU FOR THE TEA PARTY...
HE SAYS HE WISHES TO AT LEAST GLIMPSE YOUR HIGHNESSES.
VIKTOR...

HAAH...
.....
WE WERE JUST ABOUT OUT OF TIME ANYWAY. SHALL WE END OUR TEA PARTY?
WANTING TO SEE HIS CHILDREN IS HIS MAJESTY'S NORMAL STATE.
WHY DOES HE NEED TO SEE ADELE AND ME TOO? HE CAN SEE US ANYTIME.
ELDER BROTHER IS ONE THING BUT...
WHISPER
IT IS AN HONOR. PLEASE INVITE US BACK AT ANY TIME.
THANK YOU FOR COMING.
I HAD A WONDERFUL TIME, EINS, ERNST.
WELL, I'LL BE WAITING AT THE CARRIAGE STOP.
YES. STAY WELL, DEAR.
I WILL EAGERLY LOOK FORWARD TO OUR NEXT OPPORTUNITY TO MEET.
...YOUR HIGHNESS.

I WILL JOIN YOU.
?
MMPH.
.....
.....
YOU TWO...SEEM AWFULLY CHUMMY...
? ?
WHY?
FU FU FU.

...I BELIEVE YOU DID A FAVOR FOR PRINCE LICHT RECENTLY.
OH, IT WAS NOTHING MUCH.
I HAD THE HONOR OF ASSISTING HIM WITH A FINANCIAL MATTER, THAT IS ALL.
BESIDES, HE PROMISES TO REPAY ME AT A LATER DATE.
I WOULD HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO GIVE IT TO HIM OUTRIGHT, BUT HE INSISTED.
...WAS THAT...

...TO REMOVE PRINCE LICHT FROM THE ROYAL PALACE?
...CUTTING STRAIGHT TO THE CHASE, HMM?


...IT IS FOR PRINCE LICHT'S SAKE.
YOU WOUND ME, SIR.
THEN ARE YOU IN CONTACT WITH DR. DMITRI OF OROSZ?
DO YOU HAVE ANY CLOSE CONNECTION WITH THE MILITARY SCHOOL?

I DON'T KNOW...
.. WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.

IF YOU SUSPECT THAT I AM SABOTAGING THE YOUNGER PRINCES...
...TO PREVENT THEM FROM SUCCEEDING THE THRONE, THEN YOU WOULD BE OFF THE MARK.
I BELIEVE I ALREADY ADDRESSED YOUR SUSPICIONS...
...ON OUR CARRIAGE RIDE TO THE ROYAL PALACE.
NOT ONLY IS PRINCE EINS THE ELDEST, HIS HIGHNESS IS ACCOMPLISHED BOTH IN ACADEMICS AND IN MILITARY KNOWLEDGE.
EVERYONE AGREES THAT HE DESERVES TO BE NEXT IN LINE FOR THE CROWN.
THERE IS NO REASON FOR ME TO GO OUT OF MY WAY TO OBSTRUCT THE YOUNGER PRINCES' PROGRESS.
I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOU WOULD STOP TAKING YOUR ANXIETIES OUT ON ME.
ANXIET-IES?

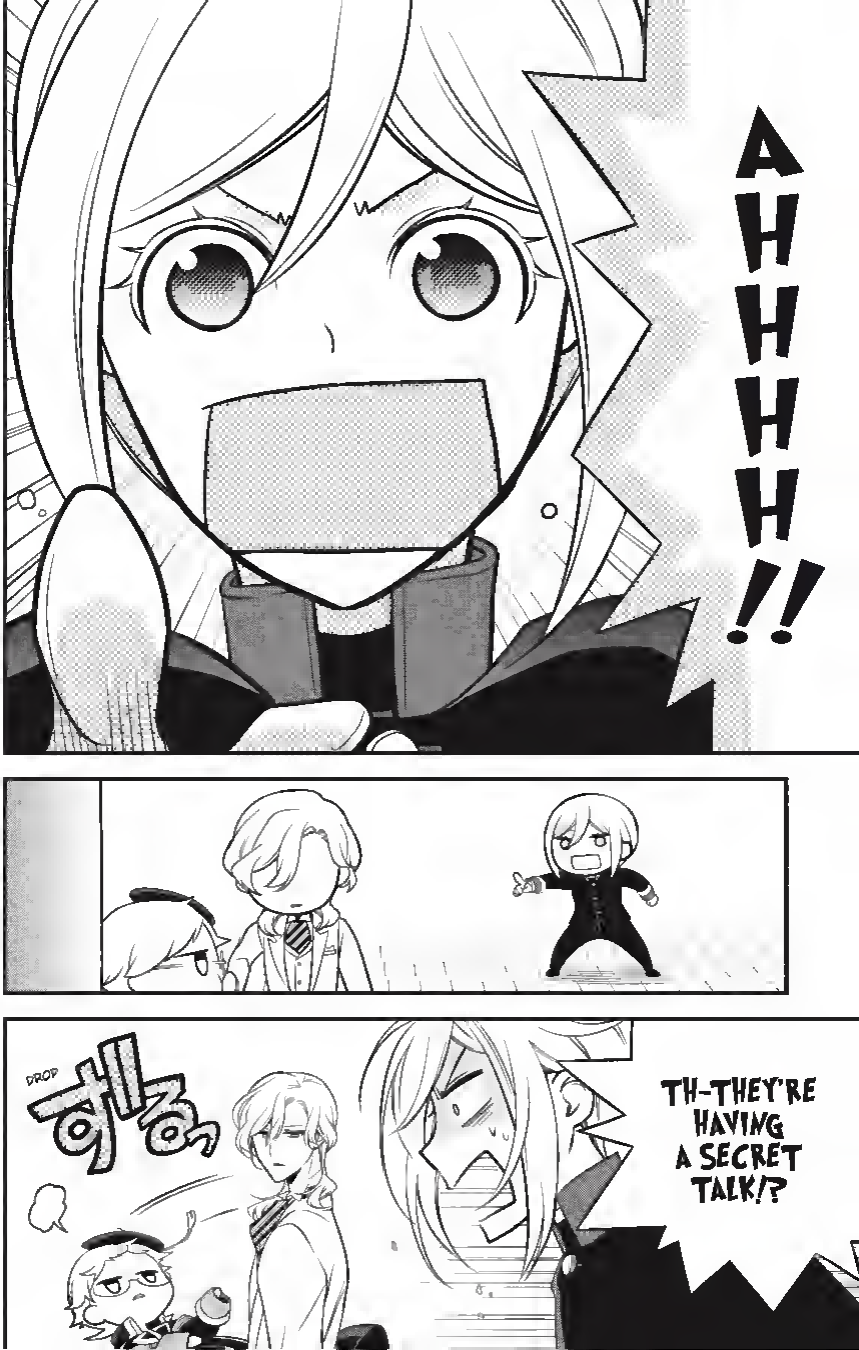
PRINCE KAI AND PRINCE BRUNO...
...MAY NOT BE CONTENT TO REMAIN FIRMLY ON THE PATH TO THE THRONE WHEN THEY SEE THE OUTSIDE WORLD.
THAT LEAVES ONLY PRINCE LEONHARD, WHO'S, WELL...
ONLY PRINCE EINS IS FIT TO BE THE NEXT KING.
AT THE VERY LEAST, IN THE PRESENT CIRCUM-STANCES
AM I WRONG?
.....
BUT...

...HIS MAJESTY HAS SAID THAT PRINCE EINS IS NOT FIT FOR THE THRONE.
.....

I DO NOT KNOW HIS MAJESTY'S REASON.
HOWEVER, BECAUSE YOU KNOW THIS...
...YOU WISH TO MAINTAIN A STATUS QUO IN WHICH PRINCE EINS IS THE BEST CANDIDATE FOR KING.
SO LONG AS YOU DO THIS, HIS MAJESTY THE KING WILL EVENTUALLY BE FORCED TO ACCEPT IT AS WELL.
AM I WRONG?
YOU WANT TO FORCIBLY PLACE THE FIRST PRINCE WITH A FATAL FLAW AS THE MOST ATTRACTIVE CANDIDATE FOR THE THRONE.
THAT IS WHY YOU—

WHAM
EVEN IF THAT WERE SO...
...WHAT OF IT?

SHUT YOUR FILTHY MOUTH...
...YOU COMMON-ER.
—!


AHHHH!!
DROP
TH-THEY'RE HAVING A SECRET TALK!?

SHE RAN OFF TO PLAY WITH SHADOW.
THAT DID NOT TAKE LONG.
WHERE IS PRINCESS ADELE?
IT WAS INDEED CONFIDENTIAL, BUT...
WELL... YES...
WE'RE GOING BACK TO OUR PALACE.
ERN.
PAT
PAT
.....

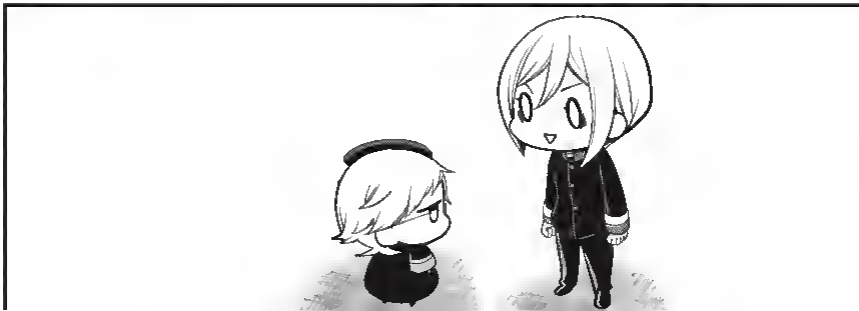
YES...
...PRINCE EINS.
SMILE
LEONHARD.
I THOUGHT YOU'D BE A SNIVELING MESS...
...WITH KAI, BRUNO, AND LICHT GONE.
.....BUT YOU REMAIN CALM.
I-I AM NOT A BRAT!
WHA ...!?
I'LL GIVE YOU THAT MUCH.
DAMNED GOOD SHOWING, FOR A BRAT.

RATTLE
RATTLE
ガラ
ガラ
BROTHER!!
POUT
ぷく
THERE, THERE.
DROOP
つぅ
?
YOU WOULDN'T KNOW HOW I FEEL!
.....
WHAT PROMPTED THIS?
.....
B...
BE-CAUSE...

...YOU AND THE COUNT WERE BAD-MOUTHING ME, WEREN'T YOU?
MINUTE AGO...
POP
ぽんっ
...WHY WOULD YOU THINK SUCH A THING?
WHAT!?
WELL, YOU TWO WERE BEING ALL SNEAKY!
YOU OBVIOUSLY DIDN'T WANT ANYONE TO HEAR!

SUCH A NEGATIVE IMAGINATION.
YOU TOLD HIM MY TEST SCORES AND LAUGHED AT ME TOGETHER! YOU DID, DIDN'T YOU!?
I BET YOU TWO WERE CALLING ME A DUNCE!
AND IT WAS AFTER DEAR BROTHER EINS CRITICIZED ME, SO...
HE'LL NEVER BECOME INDEED KING HE FAILED AT THIS RATE...
WHAT? HE SCORED 25 POINTS ON HIS TEST?
PSST
PSST
THAT IS NOT TRUE.
YOU THINK I COULD NEVER BE KING TOO...
I DO!?
WHAT IS IT...?
!?
...I REALIZED THAT YOU POSSESS AN EXCELLENT GIFT FOR A POTENTIAL KING.
TODAY...

YOUR FACE.



...THAT'S IT?
YOU SAY "THAT'S IT," BUT IT IS A GIFT YOU WERE BLESSED TO BE BORN WITH.
APPEARANCES WILL AFFECT ONE'S RECEPTION AS KING.
THE QUEEN MOTHER SAID AS MUCH HERSELF, DIDN'T SHE?
INDEED, YOUR BEAUTY HAS ALREADY GARNERED YOU SUCH POPULARITY BOTH WITHIN THE KINGDOM AND OUT...
...THAT YOU WERE KNOWN AS "THE WHITE LILY OF GRANZREICH" EVEN BEFORE I TOOK THIS POST.
A KING'S POPULARITY WITH HIS SUBJECTS IS THE STRENGTH OF HIS AUTHORITY AS MONARCH.
YOU HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO GATHER MORE SUPPORT...
...THAN ANY OF YOUR RIVALS.
HRMM... I'M NOT A FLOWER, THOUGH...
YES, YES. IN ANY CASE...

THEREFORE, IF YOU MASTER AN EQUAL MEASURE OF KNOWLEDGE AS PRINCE EINS...
...I BELIEVE THERE IS A FAIR CHANCE YOU COULD BECOME KING.
FOR NOW, IT IS IMPORTANT ...
...THAT YOU TAKE YOUR TIME TO THOROUGHLY MASTER SCHOLARLY SKILLS.
...!
...

I'M A PRINCE, AFTER ALL!
...WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, OF COURSE I HAVE THE MAKINGS OF A KING!
EH
HEH!
AH... YES...
I DON'T COMPLETELY FOLLOW, BUT...
STAAARE
じと〜っ
I-I KNOW THAT...
YOU WILL NEED TO PUT FORTH AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF EFFORT.
...THAT PRINCE KAI, PRINCE BRUNO, AND PRINCE LICHT COULD ALSO BECOME KING.
OF COURSE, I DO BELIEVE...
WHILE I DID PURPOSEFULLY PROVOKE HIM, I DID NOT EXPECT THE SMILING COUNT ROSENBERG...
...TO REACT WITH SUCH HOSTILITY.
FLOD FLOD
HMPH. HE ALWAYS HAS TO HAVE THE LAST WORD...
.....

...IT IS NOT RIGHT FOR THE FUTURE OF THE THRONE TO BE ARTIFICIALLY INFLUENCED BY ANYONE.
BUT WHATEVER THE REASON...
THAT MUCH, I BELIEVE, IS CERTAIN.
THE COUNT IS SABOTAGING THE YOUNGER PRINCES, AND HE HAS A GRAVE REASON FOR IT.
...COUNT ROSENBERG!
I WILL NOT ALLOW THINGS TO GO AS YOU PLAN...

HE'S STILL RATHER LONELY AFTER ALL.
I WAS SENT ONE TOO
HOW WONDER-FUL.
EH-HEH-HEH!
EH-HEH-HEH! LOOK, LOOK! IT'S A LETTER FROM DEAREST BROTHER BRUNO!

To be continued in the next chapter of The Royal Tutor

The Royal Tutor Chapter 54

Higasa Akai

Translation: Amanda Haley • Lettering: Abigail Blackman

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